



# Sucralfate protects against acidinduced gastric mucosal barrier dysfunction

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#### Introduction

- Stress-related gastric mucosal disease (SRMD) occurs when critical illness disrupts gastric protective mechanisms.
- Acid suppressants have adverse events in critically ill people.
- Sucralfate is a gastroprotectant with fewer adverse events.

# Hypothesis

Sucralfate would preserve barrier function in a canine *ex vivo* acid injury model.

## Methods

- Canine gastric mucosa was kept alive ex vivo on a Ussing chamber and injured with acidic solution.
- Sucralfate was administered both with injury and immediately post-injury.
- Barrier function was assessed with: mannitol flux, transepithelial resistance, and histologic examination

#### Results

- Sucralfate prevented acid-induced mucosal barrier dysfunction.
- It also increased recovery of barrier function after injury.

#### Discussion

- Sucralfate protects against and speeds recovery of mucosal barrier function after acid injury
- With its lower adverse event profile, sucralfate might be useful to prevent SRMD in people and dogs.



# Sucralfate, an oral gastroprotectant, helped prevent and speed recovery from gastric injury.



Baseline



Control



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Acid Injured



Acid + Sucralfate

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE/S: No relevant financial conflicts exist.

**UNLABELED/UNAPPROVED USES DISCLOSURE:** Sucralfate is not labeled for use in dogs.

### **Small Animal Internal Medicine**



**Proposed mechanisms of protection of sucralfate**.<sup>6,7</sup>



Sucralfate prevents acid-induced mucosal barrier dysfunction. Figure 1. Transepithelial resistance decreases during acid injury and subsequently recovers but remains significantly lower than control (p=0.029). Sucralfate, applied at the time of injury, increases TER as compared to acid injury control (p<0.001)) and is significantly higher than control non-injured tissue at 90-120 minutes (p=0.010). Figure 2. Sucralfate administration commensurate with acid injury leads to decreased paracellular flux of <sup>3</sup>H-mannitol (p=0.008). N=10, values represent means±SE.



**Sucralfate increases recovery of barrier function after acid injury. Figure 3.** Sucralfate treatment subsequent to acid injury resulted in TER recovery to a greater degree than in acid-injured mucosa without treatment (\* p<0.035). **Figure 4.** There was no significant effect of sucralfate applied subsequent to acid injury on <sup>3</sup>H-mannitol flux (p=0.214). N=10, values represent means±SE.